

~~Patent claims~~ **What is claimed is:**

1(currently amended). A method for coating articles, in particular sanitary articles, such as sanitary fittings, having at least partly metallic surfaces, **comprising the steps of:**

**providing metallic surfaces**

~~wherein optionally at least one pretreatment step for activating the metallic surfaces is carried out, [-]~~

**applying** at least one organosilane ~~is applied~~ to the metallic surfaces by ~~the so-called a~~ sol-gel method **thus obtaining a coating**, and [-]

**converting** the coating thus obtained ~~is converted~~ into a polysiloxane coating.

2(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** ~~characterized in that~~ the conversion of the coating into ~~the a~~ polysiloxane coating is carried out by thermal treatment at temperatures of **less than about 70° to 100°C** ~~<100°C, preferably <70°C~~.

3(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, **wherein** ~~characterized in that the thickness of~~ the polysiloxane coating **has a thickness less than about 1 to 5 µm** ~~is <5 µm, preferably <1 µm~~.

4(currently amended). The method as claimed in **claim 1**, ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the thickness of~~ wherein an organosilane mixture **comprising at least**, ~~preferably a mixture consisting of two organosilanes, is~~ applied to the metallic surfaces.

5(currently amended). The method as claimed in **claim 1**, ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the thickness of~~ wherein **one of** the organosilane ~~and an~~ ~~or the~~ organosilane mixture is **applied** ~~used~~ as a colloidal aqueous solution **with**, ~~in particular having a solids content of from 1% by weight to 30% by weight~~.

6(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the organosilane comprises a fluoroalkylsilane ~~, in particular a modified one, preferably in aqueous solution, is used as the organosilane.~~

7(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ organosilane comprises one of ~~is~~ 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorooctyltriethoxysilane and ~~or~~ 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecyltriethoxysilane.

8(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, any of the ~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the organosilane comprises a (poly)alkoxysilylalkane ~~, preferably 1,2-bis(triethoxysilyl)ethane, is used as the organosilane.~~

9(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising applying an organosilane mixture comprising a modified fluoroalkylsilane ~~, preferably comprising 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorooctyltriethoxysilane or comprising 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecyltriethoxysilane, and a (poly)alkoxysilylalkane, preferably 1,2-bis(triethoxysilyl)ethane, is used.~~

10(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, any of the ~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic surfaces are provided ~~present~~ on a plastics body ~~, preferably a plastics body comprising ABS.~~

11(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, any of the claims ~~1 to 9, characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic surfaces are provided ~~present~~ on a body comprising at least one of stainless steel, aluminum, die cast zinc and ~~or~~ preferably brass.

12(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, any of the ~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic surfaces comprise at least one of ~~are those comprising~~ nickel, palladium-nickel (PdNi), nickel-tungsten (NiW) and ~~or~~ chromium.

13(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~any of the claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ **wherein** the metallic surfaces **comprise at least one of** ~~are those comprising copper and a or comprising a noble metal, preferably comprising silver or gold.~~

14(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 13, ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that a so-called~~ **comprising applying a** primer is ~~applied~~ to the metallic surfaces before application of the organosilane.

15(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the primer **comprises** ~~is~~ a long-chain,  $\omega$ -functionalized mercaptan.

16(currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the chain of the primer **comprises at least one of** ~~is composed of~~ methylene units and ~~or~~ ethylene glycol units.

17(currently amended). The method as claimed in ~~claim 15 or claim 16,~~ wherein the primer **comprises** ~~is~~ 11-mercapto-1-undecanol.

18(currently amended). An article **produced by the method of claim 1**, ~~preferably a sanitary article, such as a sanitary fitting, which can be produced by a method as claimed in any of the preceding claims.~~

19(currently amended). ~~The article, preferably the~~ **A** sanitary article **comprising:**

~~, such as a sanitary fitting, wherein it has the following composition:~~

**a body comprising at least one of brass and plastic,**

~~[ ] — a brass body or a plastics body, preferably comprising ABS, [ ]~~

~~at least one metal coat, in particular comprising nickel, palladium-nickel (PdNi), nickel-tungsten (NiW) or chromium, present on the body, and [ ]~~

~~a polysiloxane coating present on the metal coat.~~

20(currently amended). The article of, ~~preferably the sanitary article, such as a sanitary fitting, as claimed in claim 18 or claim 19, further comprising:~~  
~~wherein it has the following composition [ ] a brass body or a plastics body, preferably comprising ABS, at least one metal coat, in particular comprising copper, nickel, palladium nickel (PdNi), nickel tungsten (NiW) or chromium, present on the body, [ ]~~

a coat comprising at least one of silver and ~~or~~ gold ~~present~~ on the metal coat,

[ ]

a primer coat on the coat comprising at least one of silver and gold,

preferably comprising a long-chain,  $\omega$ -functionalized mercaptan, ~~present on the silver or gold coat~~, and

-a polysiloxane coating present on the primer coat.

21(currently amended). The article ~~as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20,~~  
~~characterized in that it has the following composition:~~ of claim 19, comprising:

[ ] a plastics body, ~~preferably comprising ABS,~~

[ ] a nickel coat ~~present~~ on the plastics body, and

[ ] a polysiloxane coating ~~present~~ on the nickel coat.

22(currently amended). The article ~~as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20,~~  
~~characterized in that it has the following composition:~~ of claim 19, comprising:

[ ] a brass body,

[ ] a nickel coat ~~present~~ on the brass body, and

[ ] a polysiloxane coating ~~present~~ on the nickel coat.

23(currently amended). The article ~~as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20,~~  
~~characterized in that it has the following composition:~~ of claim 19, comprising:

[ ] a plastics body, ~~preferably comprising ABS,~~

[ ] a nickel coat ~~present~~ on the plastics body,

[ ] a silver coat ~~present~~ on the nickel coat,

[ ] a primer coat, ~~preferably comprising a long-chain,  $\omega$ -functionalized mercaptan,~~  
~~present~~ on the silver coat, and

[ ] a polysiloxane coating ~~present~~ on the primer coat.

24(currently amended). The article ~~as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20,~~  
~~characterized in that it has the following composition:~~ **of claim 19, comprising:**

- ~~[ ]~~ a brass body,
- ~~[ ]~~ a nickel coat ~~present~~ on the brass body,
- ~~[ ]~~ a silver coat ~~present~~ on the nickel coat,
- ~~[ ]~~ a primer coat, ~~preferably comprising a long chain, w functionalized mercaptan,~~  
~~present~~ on the silver coat, and
- ~~[ ]~~ a polysiloxane coating ~~present~~ on the primer coat.

25(currently amended). The article ~~as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 24,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ **of claim 19, wherein** the polysiloxane coating has a coat  
thickness of **less than about 1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$**   ~~$\leq 5 \mu\text{m}$ , preferably  $\leq 1 \mu\text{m}$ .~~

26(currently amended). A composition for coating ~~articles, in particular~~  
sanitary articles, ~~wherein it is~~ **comprising** an organosilane mixture **including**  
~~comprising~~ at least one ~~, in particular modified~~ fluoroalkyl-silane ~~, preferably comprising~~  
~~1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctyltriethoxysilane or comprising 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-~~  
~~perfluorodecyltriethoxysilane, and a (poly)alkoxysilylalkane, preferably 1,2-~~  
~~bis(triethoxysilyl)ethane.~~

27(new). The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one pretreatment step  
for activating the metallic surfaces prior to application of the organosilane to the metallic  
surfaces.

28(new). The method of claim 5, wherein the solids content is about 1% to 30% by  
weight.

29(new). The method of claim 8, wherein the organosilane comprises 1,2-  
bis(triethoxysilyl)ethane.

30(new). The method of claim 9, wherein the fluoroalkylsilane comprises one of  
1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctyltriethoxysilane and 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-  
perfluorodecyltriethoxysilane.

31(new). The method of claim 9, wherein the (poly)alkoxysilylalkane comprises 1,2-bistriethoxysilylethane, is used.

32(new). The method of claim 10, wherein the plastics body comprises ABS.

33(new). The article of claim 19, wherein the metal coat comprises at least one of nickel, palladium-nickel (PdNi), nickel-tungsten (NiW), and chromium.

34(new). The article of claim 20, wherein the primer coat on the coat comprising at least one of silver and gold, comprises a long-chain,  $\omega$ -functionalized mercaptan.

35(new). The article of claim 23, wherein the primer coat comprises a long-chain,  $\omega$ -functionalized mercaptan.

36(new). The composition of claim 26, wherein the fluoroalkyl-silane comprises one of 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctyltriethoxysilane and 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecyltriethoxysilane

37(new). The composition of claim 26, wherein the (poly)alkoxysilylalkane comprises 1,2-bistriethoxysilylethane.

\* \* \*